

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Wanamingo, June 17, 2009

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-011-001 - What easement issues/eminent domain problems are applicable?

I-011-002 - Why have local power stations been thrown over for massive cross county lines?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-011-001

Your comment has been noted. RUS anticipates that the CapX2020 Utilities would provide compensation in the form of a one-time easement payment to property owners who host transmission lines. Property owners would retain ownership of the land and may continue to use the land around transmission structures. RUS anticipates that the CapX2020 Utilities would work with property owners to negotiate easement payments after the permitting process. If agreement on terms for an easement cannot be reached, the utilities can submit the dispute to the eminent domain process.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-011-002

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-011-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-011-004

Your comment has been noted. Due to the transmission grid's interconnected nature as well as to electricity's nature - it's generally difficult to identify a specific source of electricity on the grid. The proposed CapX2020 transmission lines will serve the region's expected growth and help begin to meet Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard (RES), which requires utilities to deliver 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2025 (Xcel Energy is mandated to deliver 30 percent by 2020, with 25 percent from wind). Most of that energy comes from wind turbines.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☐ Agriculture
 ☒ Residential
 ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial
 ☐ Industrial
 ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-011-003

We are at the juncture of ~~415 Ave~~ 415 Ave and 591st St Mazzeppa MN. The corridor will greatly disrupt the agricultural, woodland and Zumbro River area.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-011-007

The real need has not been established. According to utility studies usage is Down. Local Power is better for all involved.

I-011-004

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-011-005 No - many people at the early stages were completely uninformed.

I-011-006 The Public Utilities Commission of Minnesota has dropped the ball. There were legitimate objections made at the Certificate of Need hearing to have certain members blocked from voting - yet they were allowed to sit in on the vote - very inappropriate!

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Paul & Mary Honermann

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: PO Box

City: Rochester State: MN Zip Code: 55903

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507 358 8800

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-011-005

The utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

I-011-006

Your comment has been noted. The RUS does not have jurisdiction over the State of Minnesota Certificate of Need evaluations or content of those proceedings.

I-011-007

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.